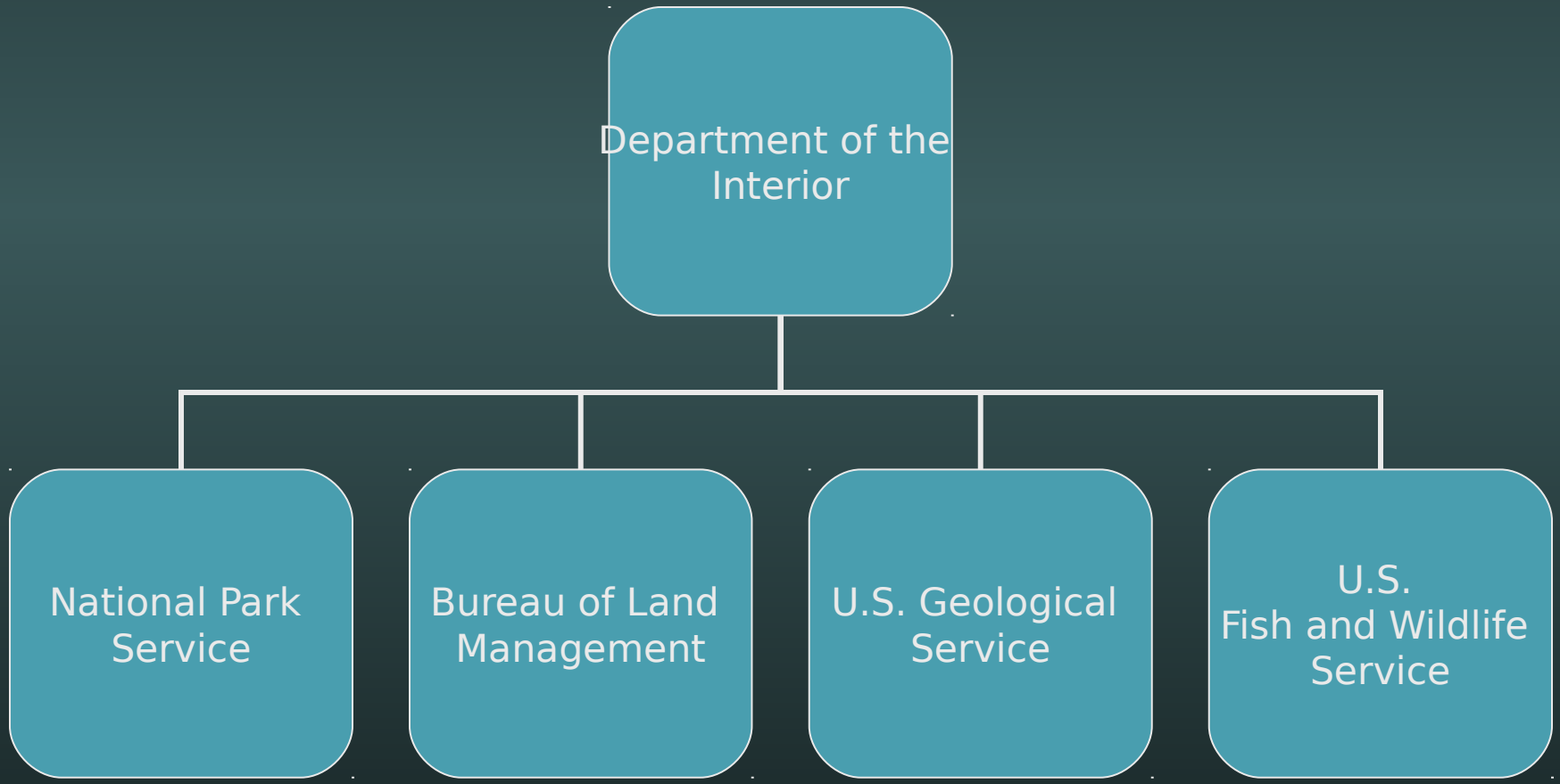
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Section 7 Review Process

USACE Regulatory Sem
Birmingham, AL
September 18-19, 2007

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Major Divisions

- Ecological Services
  - 78 Field Offices
- National Wildlife Refuges
  - 93 million acres of public lands
  - 530 refuges
- Fisheries and Habitat Management
  - 66 national fish hatcheries
- Migratory Birds

Mission:

Working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Ecological Services – Major Programs

- Endangered Species
  - Candidate Conservation
  - Listing
  - Recovery
  - Endangered Species Permits
  - Working with States
  - Consultation

Cahaba shiner (*Notropis cahabae*)

- Habitat Conservation
  - Coastal Program
  - Hydropower Activities
  - NEPA – Environmental Review
  - National Wetlands Inventory
  - Partners for Fish and Wildlife
- Environmental Contaminants

Ecological Services – Consultation

Three Important Acts:

- Fish and Wildlife Coordinat
- Clean Water Act
- Endangered Species Act (E

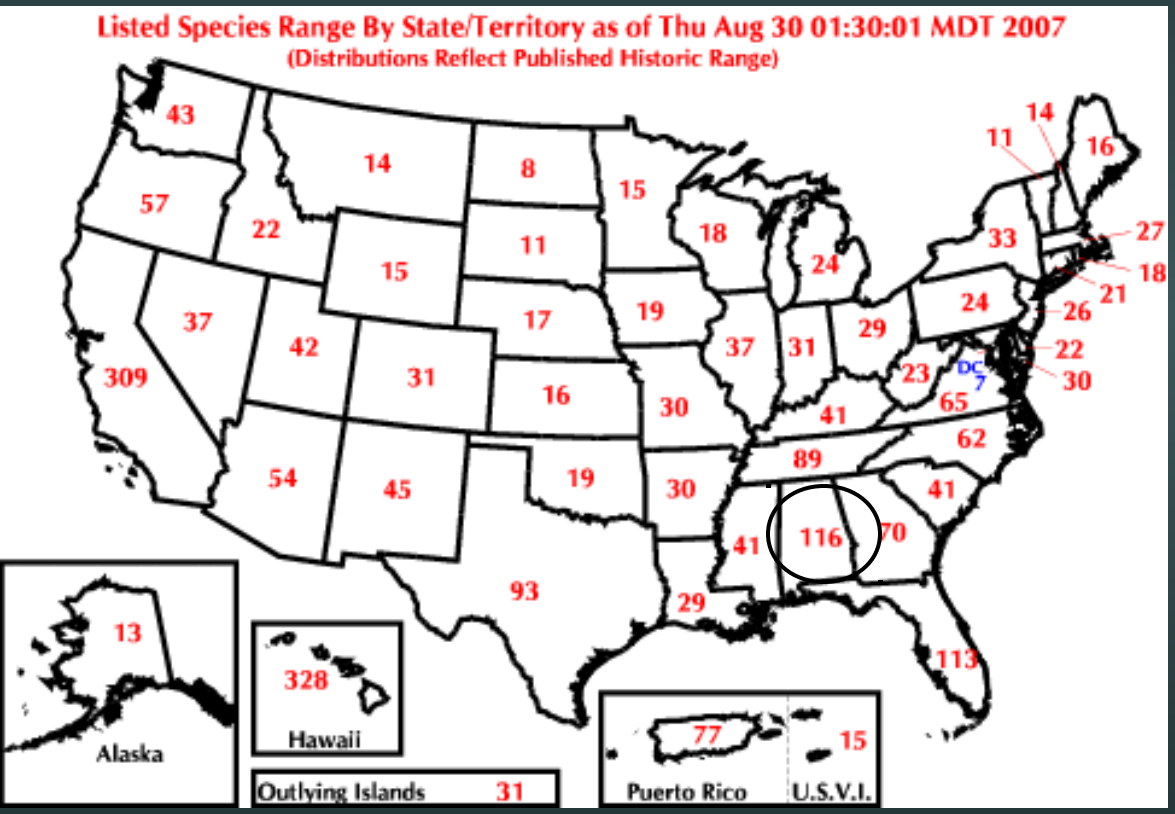
Flattened musk

Coosa crayfish
Cambarus coosae

Endangered Species Act - Overview and Purpose

- Enacted in 1973
- Purposes (Section 2)
  - Conserve ecosystems that threatened and endangered species depend on
  - Develop a program for conservation of listed species
  - Support e[illegible]onventions

Alabama's Threatened and Endangered Species



- 116 threatened and endangered species
- 78 are freshwater species or associated with aquatic systems or wetland habitats

Why so many listed sp
in Alabama?

1. High habitat diversity
   - unique species
   - restricted ranges
2. Loss of habitat
   - terrestrial and aquatic
   - wetlands
3. Impacts to aquatic systems
   - dams and reservoirs
   - excess siltation from runoff, agriculture, and development
   - pollution (sediments, contaminants, nutrients, etc)

How can we protect these species?

- Consultation
- Cooperation
- Communication

"What we've got here is a failure to communicate."

Movie 'Cool Hand Luke'

Endangered Species Act – Section 7 Consultation

- 7 (a) (1)
  - Directs federal agencies to conduct programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species
- 7 (a) (2)
  - Requires federal agencies to ensure that the actions they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or adversely modify critical habitat

Steps for Submitting a Project – Option 1

- Gather Information
  - Project description
  - Project maps – clearly mark project
  - Habitat description / photographs
  - Best management practices
  - Contact person: phone, fax, mailing address

Steps for Submitting a Project – Option 1 cont.

- Mail to:

  Field Supervisor

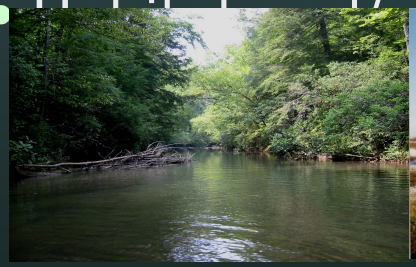
  1208 Main Street

  Daphne, AL 36526

- Wait for FWS response
  - Typically within 30 days from time letter is received
  - Includes review and evaluation of available project information

Steps for Submitting a Project – Option 1 cont.

- Three kinds of responses:
  - Concurrence letter or stamp reply – no species
  - Request for more information
  - Species list
    - Helps determine species that may be affected
    - Current status of listed species and critical habitat
    - Habitat and conservation recommendations



Steps for Submitting a Project – Option 1 Review

- Gather Information
- Mail to Field Supervisor
- Wait for FWS response
- If necessary, FWS will re-review updated project info
  - Concur, or
  - Advance to informal or formal consultation

Etowah Darter -

Steps for Submitting a Project – Option 2

- Gather Information
  - Project description
  - Project maps – clearly mark project
  - Habitat description / photographs
  - Best management practices
  - Contact person: phone, fax, mailing address
  - **Supply species list and any potential impacts to species**

Steps for Submitting a Project – Option 2 cont.

- Species information available at:
  - http://daphne.fws.gov
  - http://www.fws.gov
  - http://ecos.fws

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Environmental Conservation Online System
Welcome to ECOS!
ECOS Home
ECOS Information
Threatened and Endangered Species
Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species
ECOS Mapper
What is ECOS?
The Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) provides access to information related to Endangered Species, Fisheries and Habitat Conservation programs, as well as other FWS and Government programs.

Steps for Submitting a Project – Option 2 cont.

- Mail to:

  Field Supervisor

  1208 Main Street

  Daphne, AL 36526

- Wait for FWS response
  - Typically within 30 days from time letter is <u>received</u>
  - Includes review and evaluation of <u>available</u> project information

Orange-nacre mucket

Southern pigtoe

Steps for Submitting a Project – Option 2 cont.

- Three kinds of responses:
  - Concurrence letter
  - Request for more information
    - Habitat and/or species survey recommendations
  - Advance to informal or formal consu

Lily Shoals, Cahaba River

Steps for Submitting a Project – Option 2 Review

- Gather Information – includes species list
- Mail to Field Supervisor
- Wait for FWS response
- If necessary, FWS will re-review updated project info
  - Concur, or
  - Advance to informal or formal consultation

Other Suggestions

- Conduct long-term, landscape-level planning
- Consider submitting several possible projects far in advance
- Build in time for FWS 30-day review
- Allow time for additional review(s) if needed
- Attend erosion control and oth
  management practices worksh

Cell Tower Site Information and Forms

In order to streamline the tower site permit application process, the following information and forms are provided:
General Information and Guidance
Tower Site Evaluation Form

If applying for a tower site, please complete the form and send to:

Daphne Ecological Services Field Office
1208 Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526

For questions on tower site applications or for more information contact Jodie Smithem at (251) 441-5842.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs lay out a framework that provide the necessary protections while allowing projects to go forward.

The following list contains a general set of recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Recommended BMPs for Specific Types of Projects:
Bridges and roads
Borrow pits
Urban development
Water distribution lines
Poultry production facilities
Mining operations

Pre-Coordinated Activities

We have long recognized that certain categories of work result in no or insignificant adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources. Coordination of such activities with the Service results in an unnecessary burden.

If all of your proposed work falls within the scope of one of these blanket concurrences, you do not need to contact us. Simply place a copy of the downloaded clearance letter in your application packet.

Blanket Clearance Letter -- HUD
Blanket Clearance Letter -- FEMA (storm shelters and safe rooms)
Blanket Clearance Letter -- FEMA (storm sirens)

Daphne Field Office Federal Activities & Project Planning Areas of Responsibility

Legend

- Rob Hurt - Northern Project Area
- Ted Martin - North-Central Project Area
- Dianne Ingram/Jodie Smithem/Josh Rowell - South-Central Project Area
- Patric Harper - Southern & Coastal Project Area

Who Can I Contact for More Information?

Birmingham Field Office
Samford University
Sciencecenter Room 229
Birmingham, Alabama 35229-2234

Ted Martin
205/726-2667
ted_martin@fws.gov

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Daphne Field Office
1208 Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526
251/441-5181

Jodie Smithem
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